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Multiple Job-holding Among Farm Families. M. C. Hallberg, Jill L. Findeis, and Daniel A. Lass. Ames, IA: Iowa State University Press, 1991. x + 350 pp. Maps and references. \$41.95 cloth (ISBN 0-8138-0287-3).

An increase in the percentage of families involved in off-farm employment provided the intellectual fodder for a symposium on multiple job-holding among farm families held in May, 1988. Like other books that are the off-spring of conferences and symposia, the weaknesses of the symposium are replicated in the book unless the editors apply a heavy hand to ensure interrelatedness and quality of contributions. Unfortunately, evidence of this editorial hand is missing: the book is uneven and fails to demonstrate the

interconnections between chapters. Yet, even with this caveat, there are several significant research/modeling contributions and review essays. The five sections, which contain the history and definition of, causes of, surveys of, labor supply of, and social policies of multiple job holding, are written for agricultural economists, and provide a current (up to 1988) overview of the theoretical and empirical work governing multiple job-holding by American-Canadian farm families.

The initial article by Ahearn and Lee is an extensive, historical overview and current status of the definition(s) of composition of farm families in the United States. It exemplifies the strengths and weaknesses of the compendium. The presentation which is thorough verging on the tedious, demonstrates that the myriad conceptualizations (income, hours, production, multiple operators, absentee operators, tenancy and so on) lead to different results and that there is no "right" definition of "farm" or "farm family." Yet, these issues of methodology are mostly ignored in the research chapters that follow.

In the multiple-job holding models of Part II, papers presume knowledge of statistical procedures involving simultaneous equations and variants of profit analysis. Significance of the models lies in their exposition of variables needed to explain the "efficient" allocation of labor among farm families. The models assume rationality and free choice, and deal with issues of decision making between operators and spouses within the context of recursive or nonrecursive models.

Part III selections survey farm families in Illinois, Wisconsin, Louisiana, and Florida. Generally the papers are descriptive, focusing on important variables noted in the models discussed in Part II. Part III focuses on push and pull factors in the allocation of labor and capital where employment in the local area operates to retain persons in the agriculture sector. Issues of rationalism predominate: how do operators and spouses weigh costs and benefits of off-farm employment? what are the liabilities of part-time farming? what are the alternatives to farming? All papers note the increased reliance on off-farm employment as a survival strategy, particularly for smaller farms. Also, there is a consensus regarding the elasticity of operators' off-farm employment and wage level while spouses' off-farm employment

tends to be inelastic in regard to farm size, but is elastic in regard to education, children and work experience.

In Part IV, the editors review studies on labor supply and then develop a labor supply model. They reference the idea that multiple job holding resulting from the creation of off-farm employment opportunities may affect the organization of agriculture: policy implications finally surface. They note that location, farm traits (production, type, sales), personal characteristics, wage rates, and job benefits are important variables when examining multiple job holding. Johnson's discussion chapter notes the policy implications of creating jobs and job training in rural areas, of developing rural entrepreneurship, of increasing support of public education, of expanding rural infrastructures, and of renovating federal and state tax programs and credit programs.

Policy issues for multiple job-holding families are discussed in the final section. Papers deal respectively with commodity programs, rural development programs, and extension programs. Although the chapters provide a good historical overview of policy issues, they fail to incorporate the ideas, data, and models suggested in the previous chapters to policy issues. Contributors to the compendium note the historical reliance of farmers on multiple job holding. Although not new, the unprecedented reliance on off-farm employment, particularly for small farms, provides the stimulus for this work. The historical overviews, model building and empirical analysis of this trend in agriculture compensates for the lack of integration of theory (models), empirical data, and social policy. **Audie Blevins**, *Department of Sociology, University of Wyoming*.